II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of an L-amino acid comprising:

culturing coryneform bacteria ~~in which at least the endogenous accDA gene is amplified, under conditions suitable for the production of the accDA gene product;~~ under conditions suitable for overexpression of the accDA gene having the nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, and wherein said bacteria produce said L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, and L-methionine.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein said accDA gene further comprises ~~has~~ a nucleotide sequence ~~consisting essentially of that of SEQ ID NO. 1~~ encoding the polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (Previously Added) The process of claim 17, wherein said accDA gene comprises polynucleotide sequences which correspond to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 within the region of degeneracy of the genetic code.

20. (Cancel)

21. (Previously Added) The process of claim 17, wherein said bacteria is a Corynebacterium glutamicum.

22. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein said bacteria further comprises at least one gene other than accDA which is also ~~amplified~~ expressed.

23. (Cancel)

24. (Previously Added) The process of claim 17, wherein said bacteria is transformed with a plasmid vector for expressing the accDA gene of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

25. (Previously Added) The process of claim 24, wherein said vector is pZ1accAD.

26. (Cancel)

27. (Cancel)

28. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 17, comprising:

culturing coryneform bacteria in which the endogenous accBC gene is ~~additionally amplified~~ overexpressed, under conditions suitable for the production of the accBC gene product.

29. (Previously Added) The process of claim 17, wherein an endogenous dapA gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase is simultaneously overexpressed.

30. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein an endogenous DNA fragment conferring S-(2-aminoethyl) cysteine resistance is simultaneously ~~amplified~~ overexpressed.

31. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of L-amino acids selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, and L-methionine comprising:

a) culturing coryneform bacteria in which at least the endogenous accDA gene having the nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 is amplified, under conditions suitable for the production of the accDA gene product;

b) accumulating the desired L-amino acid in the medium or in the cells of bacteria; and

c) isolating the L-amino acid(s); and wherein said bacteria produce said L-amino acid(s).

32. (New) A process for the production of L-amino acids selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, and L-methionine comprising:

a) culturing coryneform bacteria in which at least the endogenous accDA gene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 is amplified, under conditions suitable for the production of the accDA gene product;

b) accumulating the desired L-amino acid in the medium or in the cells of bacteria; and

c) isolating the L-amino acid(s); and wherein said bacteria produce said L-amino acid(s).

33. (New) A process for the production of an L-amino acid comprising: culturing coryneform bacteria under conditions suitable for overexpression of the accDA gene comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and wherein said bacteria produce said L-amino acid selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-aspartic acid, L-asparagine, L-homoserine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, and L-methionine.

34. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said bacteria is a Corynebacterium glutamicum.

35. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said bacteria further comprises at least one gene other than accDA which is also expressed.

36. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein said bacteria is transformed with a plasmid vector for expressing the accDA gene of Corynebacterium glutamicum.

37. (New) The process of claim 36, wherein said vector is pZ1accAD.

38. (New) The process of claim 33, comprising:

culturing coryneform bacteria in which the endogenous accBC gene is overexpressed, under conditions suitable for the production of the accBC gene product.

39. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein an endogenous dapA gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase is simultaneously overexpressed.

40. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein an endogenous DNA fragment conferring S-(2-aminoethyl) cysteine resistance is simultaneously overexpressed.